

**MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**CHOCONUT VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**MEETING DATE JUNE 9, 2009, 7:00 P.M.**

Mr. Chris Catterson  
President, Board of Directors

Mr. Michael F. Ognosky  
Superintendent of Schools

Health Advisory Council Meeting

June 9, 2009 Health Advisory Council meeting began at 7:00 PM in the Placko Pavilion at the Choconut Valley Elementary School.

Board Members Present: Chris Catterson and Mary Homan

Administrators Present: Betsy O'Malley and Mike Ognosky

Committee Members Present: Jean Hollister, Judy Ochse, Charm Giangrieco

Visitors Present: Bill Host (High School Teacher)

I. Old Business:

- ✓ **October 2009 In-Service Day:** Mrs. Hollister reviewed the plans for the October 2009 in-service day as they now stand. In the morning session we will focus on the topic of "stress" and those items that cause stress in the daily life of our employees. The first speaker will be Bill Lewis who will discuss a variety of financial issues that were listed in the evaluations from last year as potential areas of interest for the future. The second speaker will be one of our local attorneys, Bob Hollister, who will discuss items such as Long Term Care Insurance, Living Wills and other Health Care issues. The afternoon session will be more of a "hands on" session with employees having the opportunity to participate in deskercise, yoga, etc.
- ✓ **Immunization Concerns:** The nurses present, Judy Ochse and Jean Hollister, updated the committee on the status of our student immunizations, as required by law. The state has recently provided additional time for the parents to deliver the required immunization materials to the district.
- ✓ **Nutrition Education Update:** Mr. Ognosky explained that this item has been placed on hold for this upcoming year. Mrs. Lydia Tompkins, who presented at our last meeting, provided a grade K-6 curriculum that she would deliver once a month to the elementary students at a cost of \$10,000 for the year. After discussing it with the elementary principals, it was decided that more information would be needed and the parameters of a schedule put in place, prior to providing for consideration for this program.
- ✓ **Special Dietary Needs Students Update:** Judy Ochse provided an overview of the program put in place at Lathrop Street regarding the identification of students who have food allergies. The group was very impressed with the strategies put in place by Mrs. Perkins, School Nurse at Lathrop Street, and Judy will implement them as well at Choconut Valley.

II. New Business

- ✓ **Community Care Services:** Mr. Ognosky highlighted a new program that will be held in the Elementary Schools next year. Community Care Services will be providing a Mental Health Service Clinic in each of the elementary schools at no cost to the district. The Clinic will provide wrap around services for children in each of those schools that qualify for the program. Currently, those students received outreach services through Mental Health in Montrose, but this model has proven to be very effective n urban areas. Community Care Services, working through the Susquehanna County Integrated Children's Services Planning (ICSP) Initiative has reached out to the school districts in Susquehanna County to attempt to establish a similar model in a rural setting. Previously, the administration and guidance personnel in the elementary schools has met with

representatives from Community Care Services and all are in favor of making an attempt to establish the Clinic in our schools. Our only commitment will be to provide a room for them – they will send out a Request for Proposal and hire and staff the clinic.

- ✓ **Other Service Initiatives:** We are also talking to Mental Health Services in Montrose as they are attempting to establish a Mobile Therapist at the High School level for each High School across the county. We will be meeting with representatives from MH/MR later in the summer to address this issue. Also, our Mobile Dentistry services will be expanded for next year to include grades 9-12 at no additional expense to the district.

III. Open Forum: The following items were discussed in the open forum segment:

- ✓ **Food Service Grants:** Miss O'Malley informed the group that the District has been unsuccessful in their attempt to acquire a Fresh Fruit and Vegetables grant from the state. She also explained that it would be great if the district would receive the stabilization funds as currently placed in the governor's proposed budget as one of the items we hope to address with those funds is some of the older equipment in the kitchen.
- ✓ **High School Concerns:** Mrs. Hollister discussed two concerns that have had an affect on the Nurses' Office in the High School. The first is in regard to the utilization of cell phones by the students in calling parents due to illness and then coming to the nurse. She explained that cell phone utilization in the High School during student "free time" – hallways, lunch room, etc. – has been on an increase and asked that it be a priority for the administration at the beginning of school next year. She also explained that students leaving for lunch and bringing food back to the building is also a concern. Mr. Ognosky will address this with the high school administration.
- ✓ **Judy Ochse:** Mrs. Ochse discussed the action plan she had recently put in place due to an increase in "head lice" at the primary grade level in Choconut Valley at the end of the school year. In what was a daily, detailed process the situation was addressed in a timely manner.
- ✓ **After School Exercise Club:** Mr. Host suggested that an Exercise Club be established in the High School for those students who wanted to address their physical fitness yet were not interested in participating in athletics. Members present felt it was an interesting idea worth exploring. Mr. Ognosky explained that there would be a need to follow the established procedures in developing a club – an interested group of students would need to find an employee to function as the advisor for the group.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

*Mike Ognosky*

Mike Ognosky, Superintendent